

**Introduced by Senator Alquist**

March 8, 2005

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 4—Relative to the Republic of Cyprus.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 4, as introduced, Alquist. Republic of Cyprus: reunification.

This measure would commend the Republic of Cyprus for the many steps it is taking towards seeking a just resolution of the Cyprus problem and would also call on the President and Congress of the United States to continue our country's historic support for the reunification of Cyprus, while fully respecting that the government of the Republic of Cyprus is the only legitimate sovereign authority for the entire island of Cyprus.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California first welcomed immigrants from  
2 Cyprus in the early part of the 20th century; and  
3 WHEREAS, Cypriot Americans thereafter settled in  
4 communities around the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and  
5 San Francisco and in the agricultural centers of the Sacramento  
6 Delta, and the San Joaquin and San Bernardino Valleys; and  
7 WHEREAS, Today Cypriot Americans are contributing and  
8 prospering in business, in academia, and in various professions in  
9 California and across the United States; and  
10 WHEREAS, The Republic of Cyprus itself has been forcibly  
11 divided for more than 30 years by the Turkish invasion of the  
12 island in 1974 and through the continuous and ongoing  
13 occupation by Turkish troops of some 37 percent of the island's  
14 territory; and  
15 WHEREAS, The United States has expressed consistent  
16 support for the reunification of Cyprus based on the rule of law

1 and has encouraged efforts toward a resolution that respects the  
2 rights of all Cypriots; and

3 WHEREAS, Cyprus has taken a large strategic step forward  
4 by joining the European Union (EU) in May 2004, and its EU  
5 accession is enlarging the scope of cooperation between Cyprus  
6 and the United States and will act as a further catalyst for a just  
7 settlement of the Cyprus dispute; and

8 WHEREAS, Cyprus, together with other EU partners, took a  
9 critical decision in December 2004, to permit Turkey to begin  
10 EU accession talks on October 3, 2005, recognizing that Turkey  
11 must abide by EU principles, values, and norms and this will  
12 significantly contribute to the further development of a secure  
13 and economically robust Eastern Mediterranean as well as  
14 offering the prospect of providing a new context to resolve the  
15 long-standing division of Cyprus; and

16 WHEREAS, The Republic of Cyprus has announced and is  
17 implementing a series of economic and other measures to reach  
18 across the island's internal division and benefit the Turkish  
19 Cypriots living in the northern occupied territory of the country;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Cyprus has as a goodwill gesture unilaterally  
22 initiated a program to clear more than 2,300 mines in eight  
23 minefields in the buffer zone dividing the island; and

24 WHEREAS, Cyprus is a valued ally in the fight against terror  
25 and has joined President Bush's Proliferation Security Initiative,  
26 an important step to battling the spread of weapons of mass  
27 destruction; and

28 WHEREAS, A lasting, just, peaceful, and mutually agreed  
29 upon solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the  
30 security and the political, economic, and social well-being of all  
31 Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between  
32 Greece and Turkey, and would serve United States interests in  
33 the region; and

34 WHEREAS, There has long been a strong friendship between  
35 the Citizens of California and the people of the Republic of  
36 Cyprus, both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot alike; now,  
37 therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
39 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
40 commends the government of the Republic of Cyprus for the

1 many steps it is taking towards seeking a just resolution of the  
2 Cyprus problem and calls on the President and the Congress of  
3 the United States to continue our country's historic support for  
4 the reunification of Cyprus, while fully respecting that the  
5 government of the Republic of Cyprus is the only legitimate  
6 sovereign authority for the entire island of Cyprus; and be it  
7 further

8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
9 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
10 States, to all Members of the Congress of the United States, and  
11 to the author for appropriate distribution.  
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14 **CORRECTIONS:**

15 **Heading-Pages 1, 2, and 3.**

16 **Title-Line 1.**

17 **Digest-Line 1.**  
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